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AUSTRIA'S ECONOMY IN 1958: A FAVORABLE REVIEW

According to a report of the Austrian Institute for Economic Research, the Austrian economy produced in 1958 products and services worth 129 billion schillings, or 6% more than in 1957. (About 26 schillings equal one dollar. Ed.) Under full consideration of price increases, a real production rise of 3.4% was reported. In 1957, the gross national product had shown a real increase of 5.8%.

The economy expanded last year somewhat slower than in 1957, because the international economic condition made exports more difficult; exports decreased by 6%, the first such loss since the end of the war. The international recession might have had still worse effect upon the Austrian economy if the national budget had not offered considerable impetus. The federal government spent about 41 billion schillings according to tentative estimates, or five billions more than in 1957. At the same time, lowered wage taxes increased private mass incomes by about 500 million schillings. Total federal deficits probably went past the five billion schilling mark as against 1.3 billion schillings in 1957.

Economic expansion was further assisted by available money which thanks to record surpluses in the payments balance remained elastic.

The industrial production index was 3% higher in 1958 than in 1957. Production expansion became possible, however, at least in part, by filling of old orders and manufacturing finished goods for stock.

Agriculture produced about 10% more than in 1957. The unusual increase here was due primarily to record harvests

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DR. MATSCH ON U.N. MINORITIES COMMISSION

Austria's Permanent U.N. Representative, Ambassador Dr. Franz Matsch, is the only new member of the U.N. Sub-Commission for the Prevention of Discrimination And Protection of Minorities elected at the recent session of the parent body, the Human Rights Commission; eleven of the present members have been reelected for the next term (1960-62).

VIENNA'S ATOMIC REACTOR: CONSTRUCTION STARTS IN FALL

The atomic reactor which will rise in Vienna's Prater district next fall will be of the research type. It will be made available for scientific purposes to all Austrian colleges and universities. Completion is scheduled for early 1961. The Vienna reactor will then supplement the Seibersdorf, Lower Austria, atomic research center. The Vienna plant will cost about 33 million schillings (about 26 schillings equal one dollar. Ed.). About two thirds of the sum will go into construction while the remaining third is for the technical equipment.

The Austrian Education Ministry which is in charge of research reactor construction has awarded the building contract to an American firm, the General Atomic Corporation. The plans were drawn by two Viennese architects.

The Vienna reactor, about 20 feet high, will have a smaller capacity than the Seibersdorf reactor with its nearly 70-foot height. However, the Vienna plant will fully suffice for the scientific tasks it is to serve. It will not entail any danger to Vienna's population.

Besides the reactor, the Prater installation will also have research plants for chemistry and physics, as well as guest houses for visiting metallurgists, geologists and other scientists.

Professors and students of all Austrian institutions of higher learning will be enabled to do several months of scientific research at the Prater reactor. The Education Ministry will be in charge of arrangements.

AUSTRIA AND THE WORLD YOUTH FESTIVAL: STATEMENTS BY RAAB, PITTERMANN

The Preparatory Committee for the World Youth Festival asked the Austrian government some time ago to permit the holding of the World Youth Festival 1959 in Vienna. In reply, the Austrian government demanded a definite commitment from the promoters that all Austrian laws would be strictly adhered to and that no political propaganda would be disseminated. Such an assurance was given by the promoters. Subsequently, the Austrian government decided to permit the World Youth Festival 1959 to be held in Vienna. This permission, it is stated officially, does not imply any assistance on the part of the Austrian government or other Austrian authorities, nor does it mean that the event is to be held under Austrian auspices; furthermore, it does not

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include any identification of Austria with the goals of the World Youth Congress.

Chancellor Raab said in connection with the Festival: "It would, of course, be possible to prohibit all congresses which might be suspected of tending to advance certain political aims; but it is also possible to take a more liberal position which, however, should apply in either case. We have decided to follow the latter course, because, ever since the end of the war, the Austrian people has shown excellent judgment in political matters; it has also demonstrated that it can neither be influenced nor intimidated by political slogans.

"It should also be pointed out that several years ago Sweden, which follows a similar foreign policy as Austria, permitted a World Peace Congress to be held in the Swedish capital.

"The Austrians always show good sense on such occasions; they simply ignore events which hold no appeal for them. But if, on the other hand, the foreign participants want to see how things are in Austria, I believe we should not stop them. We have nothing to hide."

Vice Chancellor Pittermann discussed the same question during his recent sojourn in the United States. He said:

"Democracy does not operate behind closed doors. We are quite willing to give the young people from Latin America, Asia and Africa — not to mention those from behind the Iron Curtain — a good opportunity to see for themselves what a small, independent, neutral country can achieve in combining both liberty and social progress. They will find out that the former can be advanced without detriment to the latter — a proposition, no doubt, which will be novel as well as attractive to many of them."

INCREASED CURRENCY HOLDINGS

According to the latest weekly report of the Austrian National Bank (March 28), banknote circulation decreased by 492 million schillings to 14,535,600,000. (About 26 schillings equal one dollar. Ed.) But since obligations immediately due rose by 580 million schillings to 8,271,800,000, total circulation increased by 88 million to 22,807,400,000. On the active side, deposits in currency and foreign currency rose by 82 million schillings to 12,133,200,000. On the passive side, various obligations immediately due from the deposits of foreign credit enterprises decreased by seven million schillings (to 88.9 million schillings); thus the overall currency situation improved by 89 million schillings.

MORE POSTAL SAVINGS ACCOUNTS

Postal savings business has continued to rise since the first of the year. Comparative figures show that on December 31, 1958, total postal financial transactions amounted to 4,027,000,000 schillings and by March 21, 1959, had risen to 4,352,000,000 schillings. (About 26 schillings equal one dollar. Ed.) The increase — in less than three months — amounts to roughly 8%. During the same period, the number of postal savings — and checking accounts rose from 442,614 to 459,546. Postal savings deposits increased from 1,578,000,000 to 1,711,000,000 schillings.

MORE FOREIGN CURRENCY FROM TOURIST TRAFFIC

The Austrian National Bank reported increases of foreign currency receipts from tourist traffic in February, 1959, when they amounted to 274.9 million schillings as against 200.1 million in January. In February, 1958, they amounted to 251.5 million schillings. First place was again taken last February by German marks with 170.6 million schillings as against 79.2 million in January, 1959, and 135 million in February 1958. Next came U.S. dollars with 31.7 million schillings as against 49.6 million in January, 1959, and 32.7 million in February, 1958. (A similar decrease was noted in the receipt of British pounds sterling which in February, 1959, amounted to 24.2 million schillings as against 28.5 million in January, 1959, and 28.6 million in February, 1958.)

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Austria's Economy (Continued from page 1)

of wines and fruits. Agriculture and forestry increased their real value by almost 9%. Their financial receipts — real as well as relative — were lower than in 1957, in comparison with the national income, because its products could be sold only at depressed prices.

Among the other economic branches, tourist traffic stood out with new record achievements. The number of overnight registrations rose by 9% during the tourist season of 1957-1958. For foreign guests, the percentage increase amounted to even more: 13%.

Consumption of private households increased by four billion schillings nominal or 5% as against five billion schillings or 7% in 1957. The real increase, however, amounted to 3.5% and was the same as the year before. Higher consumption expenses were partially covered by additional mass incomes. The net income of employed persons, pensioners, etc. rose by 6% over 1957.

In 1958, investments did not play the same strong role as in 1957. The investment structure changed somewhat in favor of construction. Investments rose by 4% real as against 7% in 1957. Machinery investments increased by 3% and building investments by nearly 6%.

The change in investment goods demands can be explained by the fact that the government and the power industry invested more than the year before. Agriculture invested somewhat less and industry roughly the same as in 1957. Yet, the production capacities of industries grew faster than production. The different development of public and private investment was also echoed in the credit volume. Of the total offer of outside capital by credit institutions (commercial credits, treasury bonds, domestic loans, counterpart credits and foreign credits) amounting to 10.8 billion schillings, about seven billion schillings or two thirds were taken up by the federal government and the power economy, compared with only a third in 1957.

FOREIGN TRADE DEFICIT DOWN

The Austrian Central Statistical Bureau reports that due to increased exports the country's foreign trade deficit decreased from 491 million schillings in January to 207 million schillings in February, 1959. (About 26 schillings equal one dollar. Ed.) While exports during February showed a considerable rise of 206 million schillings to a total of 1,870,000,000, imports during the same month were 78 million less than in January and amounted to 2,077,000,000 schillings.

AUSTRIAN AIRLINES EXPAND

When summer schedules will become effective, Austrian Airlines (AUA) will service fifteen cities in thirteen European countries. AUA will meet this expanded new program with the same number of planes used so far.

Beginning on April 1, AUA's summer schedule will include flights between Frankfurt and Amsterdam; Frankfurt and Brussels; Frankfurt and Manchester; Vienna-Belgrade; Belgrade-Sofia; Belgrade-Bucharest; and Warsaw-Moscow. Austrian Airlines has so far been servicing flights between Vienna and Frankfurt, London, Rome, Zurich, Warsaw, Stuttgart and Paris.

The new program will go into effect gradually, but so that the entire network will be serviced by the time the seasonal peak is at hand. Also, schedules for some of the new routes are still awaiting the official permission of the respective governments.

Chief consideration in planning the new extended schedules was to provide a maximum of direct connections between flights. The result is that flights from Western Europe will make immediate connection with flights to the Eastern European countries and vice versa, thus eliminating the often lengthy waiting periods in between planes that have often been the case at Vienna Airport. With the extended service program Austrian Airlines are claiming their full share in international air traffic.

MACHINE EXPORTS DECLINE IN 1958

Exports of the Austrian machine-, iron and steel industry declined in 1958 — for the first time in five years — to 32% of the total output (as against 36% in 1957).

The decline in quantity is somewhat offset by price increases (1.7% per 6087 million S), since the price of finished products rose from 19.17 schilling in 1957 to 19.77 per kilogram in 1958. However, the price increase does not reflect any essential improvements in quality.

Conditions in the machine industry have not been materially affected; on the contrary, the industry continues to suffer from a serious shortage of skilled labor, and management is making intense efforts to meet the increased international competition by modernizing plants and equipment.

"HAFLING" STUDS SELL WELL ABROAD

Sales of Tyrolean *Hafling* breed horses to foreign countries were very satisfactory in 1958. Horses were exported to Italy, Switzerland, the Federal Republic of Germany, East Germany, Czechoslovakia, Yugoslavia, and, for the first time, to the United States.

A recent census showed that in the Tyrol about 2,000 horse breeders currently keep about 2,000 registered mares and 1,000 fillies.

AUSTRIAN CATTLE BREEDERS INCREASE EXPORTS

Exports of domestic breeding and beef cattle have increased considerably in recent years. Exports of domestic and breeding cattle from the production area of the *Pinzgau* breeders rose from 4,321 head in 1957 to 4,689 in 1958. Of this number, 2,636 were delivered to Italy, 2,020 to West Germany, 22 to Czechoslovakia and two to Southwest Africa.

Pinzgau cattle breeders from Tyrol, Salzburg, Styria and Kaernten participated in the export business. Exports of *Pinzgau* beef cattle rose from 3,500 head in 1956 and 4,655 head in 1957 to 4,940 in 1958. Italy purchased 4,578 and the Federal Republic of Germany 372.

SHORTER WORK WEEK IN AGRICULTURE

The Union of Agricultural and Forestry Workers has announced that negotiations over introduction of the 45-hour week in agricultural enterprises in Vienna, Lower Austria and Burgenland have been completed recently. The new work week went into effect in these areas on March 1. Arrangements for an average 45-hour week the year round include 13 weeks of 40 hours, 26 weeks of 45 hours and 13 weeks of 50 hours.

The first three hours of overtime above the contractual work week call for 25% extra pay, and overtime after that for 50% extra pay. Overtime at night and on Sunday and holidays calls for double time.

FOODSTUFF PRODUCTION UP

The relation between imports and exports of food products has again favored exports last year, a survey showed. While in 1957, 23% of the imports were covered by exports to foreign countries, the ratio increased to 27% in 1958.

Austria's foodstuff imports last year amounted to 4,097,000,000 schillings, or 4.5% less than in 1957; exports amounted to 1,094,000,000 schillings, or 11.4% more than the previous year. (About 26 schillings equal one dollar. Ed.)

Austrian exports consisted particularly of live animals (mostly cattle), showing an increase of more than 27% to 571 million schillings. Dairy products, because of the difficulties in selling butter, decreased by 14.7 million schillings to 351.3 million schillings.

On the import side, Austrian purchases of grain, flour products and bakery goods amounted to 1,219,000,000 schillings in 1958, 112.2 million less than in 1957. Here the decrease of imports of maize (from 734.3 million schillings in 1957 to 579.2 million in 1958) and wheat (from 387.7 million schillings in 1957 to 353.1 million in 1958) was especially noteworthy. But fruit and vegetable imports also were down; they amounted to 1,197,000,000 schillings in 1958. Groceries (coffee, tea, cocoa, spices) were imported to a value of 595.2 million schillings in 1958, or 54.8 million schillings more than in the previous year.

The average monthly production index of the Austrian foodstuff industry (1937 = 100) rose from 159.6 in 1957 to 183.3 in 1958. This means that foodstuff production rose by about 8% in comparison with 1957.

SOUTH TYROL: THE RECORD

THE HISTORICAL OUTLINE

In the 13th century the counts of Tyrol united the counties north and south of the Brenner and created the "Land Tyrol" as one of the principalities of the Holy Roman Empire. In 1363 Tyrol was transferred into the ownership of the Habsburg dukes of Austria by inheritance and with the consent of the Diet. Since that time the country remained part of Austria until 1918 (apart from the Napoleonic interlude 1805/13).

As far back as the 13th century a strong bend toward local self-government developed. The political rights of the Tyrolean citizens and peasants were expressly recognized in the "Big Charter" of 1342 the free rural communities were represented by a "Bench" of their own (the fifth) in the Diet. Therefore Tyrol, like Switzerland, is among the oldest democracies of Europe.

These comprehensive privileges went hand in hand with the sense of responsibility for the security of the country as every Tyrolean's personal concern. The duty to defend the country was laid down as a legal obligation and so was exemption from military service outside the country. The Tyroleans have always met this duty. The climax of Tyrolean history is the insurrection of 1809 — led by Andreas Hofer, a native of Passeier in South Tyrol —, which flared up like a beacon for all the nations of the continent suppressed by Napoleon.

The territorial provisions of the Peace Treaty of St. Germain (1919) tore asunder the community of the German-speaking population north and south of the Brenner Pass which looked back on a history of nearly twelve hundred years, and the same happened to the six centuries old connection with Austria.

This arrangement was due to Italian strategic considerations. It infringed the rightful claim of nations to self-determination, which is one of the moral principles underlying the Paris Treaties and laid down in the "14 points" of President Wilson.

From 1923 to 1943 South Tyrol was subjected to Fascist suppression and denationalization. German-language schools were abolished and private instruction in German was prohibited. The German language was exterminated in offices, in public life and even in cemeteries. The South Tyroleans were ousted from public positions and their parties were dissolved. Those who offered resistance were punished with imprisonment or exile.

When after the occupation of Austria in 1938 Hitler aimed at forming an alliance with Italy, Mussolini seized the opportunity to advance his "final" solution of the problem; resettlement. Berlin gave its consent to the resettlement scheme on June 23, 1939. Hitler abandoned the South Tyroleans to their fate.

Worn down by threats of forced resettlement in the provinces south of the Po, forced expropriations and dismissals, 213,000 German-speaking and Ladin-speaking South Tyroleans (i. e. 86 per cent of the people entitled to option) applied

for German citizenship up to December 31, 1939. The number of South Tyroleans who actually left their country is 72,000, most of them white collar workers.

Unfortunately it proved impossible after the Second World War to revoke the absurd partition of the Tyrolean population north and south of the Brenner who were one integral whole.

At the peace negotiations in Paris the two delegations, Austrian and Italian, concurred in the conviction that special measures for the protection of the national character and the cultural and economic development of the German-speaking section of the population were required. On September 5, 1945, the so-called Gruber-deGasperi Agreement was concluded at Paris between Italy and Austria; it is an annex to the Italian peace treaty which was signed by the four Great Powers and 17 minor member states of the United Nations. It is the meaning and the purport of this agreement to preserve the ethnical character of the country south of the Brenner Pass as far down as the Salurner Klause.

In the considered opinion of Austria, Italy violated the purport of the Gruber-deGasperi Agreement or failed to execute its provisions in the following points:

The stipulated autonomy has not been implemented.

The stipulated equality of rights of the two languages in the public offices of the Province of Bozen has not been realized.



- 1, 1A: North and East Tyrol; today Austria's Land Tyrol.
- 2: South Tyrol; ceded to Italy in 1919.
- 3: Trentino province (Italian speaking); ceded to Italy in 1919.

THE AUSTRIAN POSITION

Excerpts from Foreign Minister Leopold Figl's report to Parliament, March 4, 1959:

More than a year ago (on 4th December 1957) I had the opportunity of reporting to this House on our policy regarding the South Tyrol. Allow me to introduce this present report by repeating the principal passage of that previous address:

"The Paris Agreement both entitles and obliges Austria to stand up for the vital interests and the existence of the Austrian ethnic group in the South Tyrol. We shall spare no efforts and use all legal means to bring about the fulfillment of this Agreement."

This has been our attitude all along, and it remains unchanged. It is shared — as the Austrian government is well aware — by the entire Austrian population without distinction as to party allegiance.

Accordingly, we have endeavoured to approach this purpose in negotiations with Italy. We clearly expressed our position in the Memorandum of 8th October 1956.

Therein it was proposed "to form a Mixed Italian-Austrian Commission of Experts, to be charged with examining all questions deriving from the Paris Agreement of 5th September 1946, the application of which was contested, and to present to both governments proposals aiming at their solution within a time yet to be determined." In its Memorandum of 30th January 1957 the Italian Government declined this proposition, which even today we still consider the most useful one, and referred us to normal diplomatic channels. We pursued this course. It was interrupted time and again — surely not by our fault.

The equal status of the German and Italian languages granted in Art. 1, lit. b of the Paris Agreement has not so far materialised. Even today Italian is the only official language, and German a mere auxiliary language — i.e. Italian is the exclusive medium of communication between the offices of the Province. Mayors of German-speaking communities, headmasters of German-language schools have to correspond with each other in Italian. But even communication between offices and public utilities (Railways, Post) on the one hand and the public on the other takes place mainly in Italian, as anyone may find out for himself. In contacts with the police and the courts the German-speaking population is severely handicapped, as neither the courts can immediately grasp the pleadings of the parties nor can the parties follow the court proceedings directly. This became particularly apparent during the trial of the young farmers of Pfunders, in which four out of six jurors were members of the Italian ethnic group while only two belonged to that of the accused.

Ever since the years of Fascism, the civil service consists to 90% of members of the Italian ethnic group. Thus, for example, the police in the whole Province of Bozen includes six South Tyrolean only; and even of these one has been transferred to a location outside the South Tyrol. In the Provincial Hospital of Bozen all of the 57 nurses are Italian, and only one of them speaks German tolerably. Of thirty doctors four are South Tyrolean. All of the nine heads of

THE PARIS AGREEMENT

On September 5, 1946, the Austrian-Italian Agreement on the South Tyrol was concluded in Paris. It was signed by the then Italian and Austrian Foreign Ministers De Gasperi and Gruber and provides that the people of the regions in question shall be entitled to exercise legislative and executive power on an autonomous and regional basis.

The official text reads as follows:

1. German-speaking inhabitants of the Bolzano Province and of the neighbouring bilingual townships of the Trento Province will be assured a complete equality of rights with the Italian speaking inhabitants within the framework of special provisions to safeguard the ethnical character and the cultural and economic development of the German-speaking element.

In accordance with legislation already enacted or waiting enactment the said German-speaking citizens will be granted in particular:

- a — elementary and secondary teaching in the mother tongue;
- b — purification of the German and Italian languages in public offices and official documents, as well as in bilingual topographic naming;
- c — the right to re-establish German family names which were Italianized in recent years;
- d — equality of rights as regards the entering upon public offices with a view to reaching a more appropriate proportion of employment between the two ethnical groups.

2. The population of the above mentioned zones will be granted the exercise of an autonomous legislative and executive regional power. The frame within which the said provisions of autonomy will apply, shall be drafted in consultation also with local representative German-speaking elements.

3. The Italian Government, with the aim of establishing good neighbourhood relations between Austria and Italy, pledges itself, in consultation with the Austrian Government, and within one year from the signing of the present treaty:

- a — to revise in a spirit of equity and broadmindedness the question of the options for citizenship resulting from the 1939 Hitler-Mussolini-agreements;
- b — to find an agreement for the mutual recognition of the validity of certain degrees and university-diplomas;
- c — to draw up a convention for the free passengers-and goods transit between Northern and Eastern Tyrol both by rail and, to the greatest possible extent, by road;
- d — to reach special agreements aimed at facilitating enlarged frontier traffic and local exchanges of certain quantities of characteristic products and goods between Austria and Italy.

Upon the proposal of the delegations of Belgium and the Netherlands, the Agreement was incorporated, as Annex IV, into the Italian Peace Treaty of February 10, 1947.

departments at the Hospital are Italians, and only two of them speak German. I ask you: Must a population accept this today, in the age of the United Nations and of the Declaration of Human Rights? And particularly in a country such as the Tyrol which for centuries has enjoyed the rights of democratic liberty?

Such conditions are, moreover, in conflict with Art. 1, lit. d of the Gruber-DeGasperi Agreement which specifically aims at achieving a more appropriate proportion of employment between the two ethnic groups in the South Tyrol.

We therefore demand proportional ethnic representation in the entire national and public administration and in the law courts.

Art. 2, Sect. 1 quite clearly guarantees the autonomous power of legislation and administration to the population of what is today the Province of Bozen in which, as everyone knows, the South Tyrolese form the majority. Only this is in accord with the meaning and the purpose of the Agreement; the cultural and economic development of the ethnic group shall and can best be secured by self-administration. Italy has, however, united the almost purely Italian-speaking and more populous Province of Trento with the Province of Bozen to form a Region, and has given autonomy to this Region. But this Region has an Italian majority. Fifteen German-speaking deputies are faced by 33 Italian-speaking deputies. This cannot have been the purpose of the Gruber-deGasperi Agreement. As is readily apparent from all its articles, it was obviously concluded for the protection of our ethnic group. What interest could Austria have had to procure autonomy for the Trentino? One can no longer speak of self-administration for our ethnic group when in fact the instrument of autonomy is being used by an Italian majority.

The fact that Art. 2 on autonomy, the central feature of the Gruber-deGasperi Agreement, has not been fulfilled, and that even the rights granted the South Tyrolese in the existing — as I stated inadequate — Regional Statute are not put into effect, has lately become particularly clear in the question of popular housing.

Of the popular housing programmes the so-called INACASA, i.e. apartments for workers and employees which alone account for some six-tenths of the total volume of popular housing, remains outside the competence of the Province; the same is true of the apartments for civil servants and others which amount to approximately one-tenth. But even the remaining three-tenths are not submitted to the administration of the Province in contradiction to Art. 11, No. 11 and Art. 13, Sect. 1 of the Regional Statute.

The Italian Government's decision on popular housing in the South Tyrol has been amazing to the Austrian Government since repeated earnest representations on the seriousness which we attach to this matter were not even taken into consideration.

The part of our ethnic group which lives on agriculture has grown since 1918 from 60 to 70 per cent. On the other hand, the percentage of South Tyrolese who make a living as artisans, in trade, business or industry has only gone up from 18 to 23 per cent; only seven — as opposed to formerly 21 — per cent of the South Tyrolese belong to the urban middle classes (civil servants, police, free professions) — a development unique in the whole of Europe. Of the Italian ethnic group only five per cent live on agriculture, 43 per cent on trade, business and industry, and 52 per cent as civil servants, police members, in the free professions, etc.

These depressing social conditions result from the fact that the Italian newcomers have crowded out — and continue to do so — the established population from the higher and middle classes as well as from the well-paid industrial working class.

A look at the facts of the Province of Bozen:

| | Italian-speaking citizens in per cent | German-speaking citizens in per cent |
|---|---|--|
| State Administration: | | |
| State Railways | 90.7 | 9.3 |
| Railways Directorate | | |
| Bozen | 93.5 | 6.5 |
| Directorate for Post and Telegraph | 78.9 | 21.1 |
| Labor Exchange | 86.9 | 13.1 |
| Labor Inspectorate, Social and Casualty Insurance | 97.7 | 2.3 |
| Police | 99.2 | 0.8 |
| Courts of Justice | 87.1 | 12.9 |
| Office of the Treasury | 98.6 | 1.4 |

I now would like to turn to the part of the policy declaration of the Italian Prime Minister Mr. Segni which refers to the South Tyrol. It cannot satisfy us in any way. There is the assertion that the Gruber-deGasperi Agreement has already been fulfilled by Italy, as well as the statement that the execution of the Gruber-deGasperi Agreement and the protection of the minority are matters of exclusively Italian competence.

Austria and Italy have concluded the Gruber-deGasperi Agreement — I quote — "to safeguard the ethnical character and the cultural and economical development of the German-speaking population" of what is today the Province of Bozen. It is certainly a matter for Italy to carry out the treaty since Italian laws and measures are required for this. Yet it is the right of Austria as a partner to this treaty to judge whether these Italian laws and measures actually fulfill the treaty, and to insist on its fulfillment. This, moreover, is Austria's obligation towards its ethnic group.

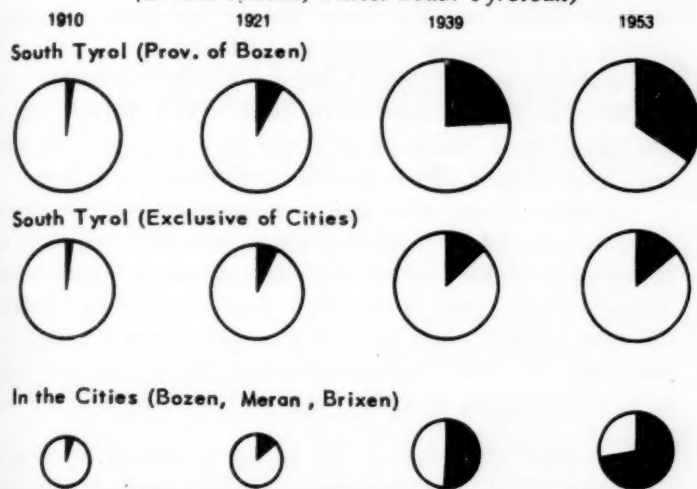
And not only the right and the duty of Austria! It is also the right and the duty of those powers which have signed the Italian Peace Treaty, and therefore also agreed to its Annex IV, the Gruber-DeGasperi Agreement. There exists, then, an international obligation on the part of Italy.

The Italian Government's recent decision to forbid two prominent Austrian politicians to enter South Tyrol was the object of deliberations of the Council of Ministers. The Federal Government expressed its amazement at this measure of the Italian Government which must be viewed as an extremely unfriendly act on the part of Italy. It also pointed to the fact that such measures are not apt to improve relations between Austria and Italy.

Moreover, it constitutes a violation of the Gruber-deGasperi Agreement if the Governor of the Tyrol and a member of the Tyrolese government are forbidden to cross the Brenner frontier. They were thus prevented from taking advantage of the free right of transit from the North to the East Tyrol via the Pustertal, which was to be regulated according to Art. 3, lit. d of the Gruber-DeGasperi Agreement, and which in fact has been the subject of such regulation.

POPULATION TREND IN TOWNS AND COUNTRY

(Black: Italian, White: South Tyrolean)



We shall not allow ourselves to be irritated by demonstrations of young people in Italy which have a clearly neo-Fascist character. But we would like to recall that the March of the Fascists on Bozen on 2nd October 1922 was the main rehearsal for the March on Rome on 28th October 1922.

Austria has remained calm in full consciousness of her right and her responsibility, and will not be prevented by anything from insisting on her good right.

It is difficult for the Austrian Government, in view of manifold disappointments, not to abandon hope of reaching the goal by way of negotiations. And it finds it a truly thankless and virtually intolerable task to bear the reproach of the Austrian people that the Government's patience borders on irresponsibility. For much time, too much time, has been lost — not by our fault. Otherwise the question of the South Tyrol could not have entered into a stage of crisis. Let us learn from past experience! From the good results achieved in cases where solutions were found prudently and in time; and from the evil results in those cases where a timely solution was missed.

On 3rd February 1959 the Council of Ministers expressed the view that the deterioration due to the Executive Decree on popular housing which conflicts with the Gruber-deGasperi Agreement emphasises the need for continuing the negotiations with Italy on the implementation of the Gruber-deGasperi Agreement with urgency, and to bring them to a conclusion as soon as possible. We shall follow this line of conduct.

If, however, the negotiations should not lead to the desired result — which we would sincerely regret — there would only remain the way of submitting the differences of opinion on the interpretation and application of the Paris Agreement to those institutions which are, under international law, competent to deal with such an issue. They would also have to decide whether it is really the domestic concern of Italy to judge on the Agreement's fulfillment. We are prepared to submit ourselves to international law. We are convinced that other countries, too, and Italy in particular, will approve this way of settling the issue. It is the

only one worthy of two European states which are neighbors, and whose mutual understanding is not barred by any other obstacle.

Nemo iudex in re sua — no one may be judge in his own cause. This is as true for us as it is for Italy.

The fulfillment of treaties is one of the foundations of every civilised community built on law and morality. It is of the essence of law that it benefits the weak as much as the strong, that it even helps the weak because of their need for protection. The so-called right of the stronger is nothing but injustice. Of the essence of law also is impartiality. The law which today may favour one party must equally be applied if tomorrow it favours the other side. Whoever invokes principles of law in his favour must be prepared to apply them if they are invoked by others.

Italy herself, through the voice of her present Foreign Minister, has acknowledged, on the occasion of the Trieste question, the principles of the Atlantic Charter and the Charter of the United Nations. I quote his words:

"It is imperialism if the most fundamental national principles are denied, if the clear application of law is replaced by arbitrariness, and if force is allowed to override the deep-rooted feeling of those directly interested ... The sufferings of these people have gone on too long. They must be allowed to speak; theirs must be the last word concerning their own fate."

This was spoken by Foreign Minister Pella in his great speech in Parliament on 13th September 1953, in support of the Italians in Trieste. He invoked on that occasion "the application of those principles which do not only form the basis of law and international morals, but also find eloquent expression in solemn documents which should be borne in mind in this connection: the Atlantic Charter, the Charter of the United Nations which Yugoslavia has also signed."

So much for the declaration, on that occasion, of the present Italian Foreign Minister.

Only one word more: the Charter of the United Nations has been signed by Italy as well!

The Tyrol is a country of ancient rights of democratic liberty. When it joined Austria in 1363, this was done with the agreement of all its estates, the nobility, the clergy, the burghers and the peasants, under reservation of "the old rights and liberties of the country." These rights and liberties of the Tyrol have been preserved within the association of the Austrian Laender — today, too, the Tyrol is a Land with its own legislation and administration.

The right of self-determination has been denied to the South Tyrolese in 1918 and in 1945. The Gruber-deGasperi Agreement concluded in 1946 was meant to provide a certain compensation for the serious injustice perpetrated by the Fascist dictatorship on this ethnic group. This injustice reached its climax in the Displacement Agreement of June, 1939, which Hitler conceded to Mussolini as price for the alliance in the approaching war.

The Gruber-deGasperi Agreement was, moreover, concluded in the hope that it would restore the South Tyrol's old rights and liberties by the granting of autonomy.

Would that the South Tyrolese be finally granted all

rights deriving from the treaty, according both to the letter and to the spirit: that they be given autonomy!

The world cannot and must not tolerate, in the South Tyrol, the violation of legal principles which it professes to believe in and which it is determined to defend. Otherwise its arguments become devoid of force and of faith. I believe in the victory of our good cause in the South Tyrol.

A RARELY STAGED SCHNITZLER PLAY AT THE BURGTHEATER

During the Vienna Festival Weeks, the Burgtheater will give a long-planned presentation of a play by Arthur Schnitzler; the choice is "Das weite Land" (The Wide Land). The direction has been entrusted to Ernst Lothar. The main role — that of the manufacturer Friedrich Hofreiter — will be a portrayed by Robert Lindner.

The next premiere at the Burgtheater is Schiller's *St. Joan*, as already mentioned in *AUSTRIAN INFORMATION*. The date has now been set at March 12. Leopold Lindtberg directs; Stephan Hlawka is the designer; Joan will be played by Inge Konradl, the dauphin by Andreas Wolf, Talbot by Ewald Balser and Dunois by Albin Skoda.

This will be followed on March 20 by Ben Jonson's "Volpone" in the dramatization by Stefan Zweig. Hanns Ernst Jaeger will play Volpone, and Albin Skoda the part of Mosca.

Kleist's "Prinz von Homburg" is planned for April,

with Ruth Niehaus, the film star, in the role of Nathalie. The prince will be played alternately by Walter Reyer and Juergen Wilke, and the Great Elector by Ewald Balser. Direction is by Rott, and scenery by Judtman.

Further planned is the premiere of Jean Giraudoux' "Der Trojanische Krieg findet nicht statt" (The Trojan War will not take place). Helen of Troy will be played by Susi Nicoletti. Josef Gielen directs and Teo Otto does the design.

Kaethe Braun who was a member of the Burgtheater ensemble in the 1943/1944 season, will play the title role in Ibsen's "Nora" which will be part of a "Scandinavian Week." Miss Braun was given the best-actress award of the City of Berlin last year for this role. When she played at the Burg, her roles included the title part in Gerhart Hauptmann's "Iphigenie in Aulis" and the female lead in the same author's "Die Harfe" (The Harp).

A Correction. The item on the *Haydn Year* (ref. p. 1 of our preceding issue, March 28) should have referred to "celebrations in connection with the 150th anniversary of Haydn's death" and not, of course, the composer's birth (1732); Ed.

KARL WEIGL MEMORIAL CONCERT

As the first in a Series of *Karl Weigl Memorial Programs* marking the 10th anniversary of the Vienna-born composer's death, the Mannes College of Music in New York is sponsoring a Karl Weigl Concert on Monday, April 20th; Mieczyslaw Horszowski, Emanuel Vardi, Heinrich Joachim, Richard Weitach, Sarah Fleming and Loren Welch will participate.

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